



MARQUIS

October 18, 2022



Nevada Legislature - Interim Finance Committee
C/O Fiscal Analysis Division
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: October 20th IFC Meeting – Support for Agenda Item #91 – RCF & LTC Workforce Initiative

Interim Finance Committee Members,

I have worked in the field of Gerontology for over 30 years most of those years have been in Long-term care facilities with Post-Acute Care Units, for the past 9 years I have served as the Director of Social Services in a Las Vegas area facility. In those 30 years, I have never seen the devastation to the residents and staff COVID-19 caused. The media covered the severe shortage of nursing staff, but paid little attention to the severe shortage of physical and occupational therapist, social workers, dietary staff, housekeeping staff, and maintenance staff. The severe staffing shortage crisis affects the psychosocial welling being of all our residents and staff. Staff are putting in large amounts of over-time to minimize the impact that agency staff have on the continuity of care. Continuity of care is a strong component of psychosocial wellbeing for our residents and staff.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, LTC facilities and RCF facilities employed three million people in July, down 380,000 workers from February 2020. Long-term care facilities employment has decreased every month except one since March 2020. While employment in nearly every occupation has been recovering from the pandemic, the number of people working in LTC and RCF facilities has continued to drop, according to federal data.

Long-term care facilities are unable to compete with other types of health care facilities to retain and recruit staff even with the highest rates of wage increases of all health care facilities. Before COVID-19, long-term care facilities barely broke even due to chronic underfunding and soaring labor costs. Long-term care facilities need an infusion of monies to continue to operate, be competitive, but most importantly to be able to provide high quality, efficient and effective care to those we serve.

I deeply appreciate the work the Governor's Office and the Department of Health and Human Services with older adults in the state.

I ask your support for Nevada's long-term care workforce by approving work program #91, which will fund the RCF & LTC facility workforce initiative.

Sincerely,

Alan Kessinger, MSW, MSG, LMSW, CDP
Director of Social Services
Marquis Centennial Hills
6351 N. Fort Apache RD
Las Vegas, NV 89149

POST ACUTE REHAB

6351 N Fort Apache Rd. | Las Vegas, NV 89149
marquiscompanies.com

ph. 702.515.3000
fx. 702.515.2401